

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

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AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2610

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EC PE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA AWARDED PERU'S MILITARY ORDER OF
AYACUCHO; ALLUDES TO BORDER DISPUTE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY ON APRIL 16,
AMBASSADOR JORGE MORELLI AWARDED THE MILITARY ORDER OF
AYACUCHO TO PRESIDENT GUILLERMO RODRIGUEZ LARA. BOTH THE
AMBASSADOR'S AND THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS DURING THE
CEREMONY ALLUDED TO THE COMMON THIRD WORLD INTERESTS OF
ECUADOR AND PERU IN CONFRONTING SUCH ACTS OF "COERCION"
AS ECUADOR'S EXCLUSION FROM GSP AND THREATS TO THEIR 200
MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS CLAIMS BY IMPERIALISTIC EXPLOITATION.
MORE INTERESTING THAN THESE WELL-WORN THEMES WAS PRESIDENT
RODRIGUEZ' HANDLING OF THE ECUADOREAN/PERUVIAN BORDER
DISPUTE. HE TOOK THE LINE THAT ECUADOR AND PERU MUST JOINTLY
DEVELOP THE AMAZON REGION. THIS WAS A STEP BACKWARDS FROM
ECUADOR'S TRADITIONAL REVANCHIST PUBLIC POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. PERUVIAN PRESIDENT VELASCO APPARENTLY HAD PRESENTED
THE ORDER OF AYACUCHO TO THE CHIEFS OF STATE WHO PERSONALLY
PARTICIPATED IN THE AYACUCHO CEREMONIES IN EARLY DECEMBER
1974. SINCE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ DID NOT ATTEND THOSE
CEREMONIES PERSONALLY, THE HONOR WAS AWARDED HIM IN QUITO
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ON APRIL 16.

3. IN MAKING THE PRESENTATION THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR EVOKED ALL OF THE HISTORICAL AND RECENT CONDITIONS THAT UNITE THE PEOPLES OF PERU AND ECUADOR. HE DID NOT ALLUDE TO THE BORDER DISPUTE. AMONG THE RECENT CONDITIONS THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED PERU'S SUPPORT FOR ECUADOR IN OPPOSING THE LATTER'S EXCLUSION FROM GSP AND FOR THEIR JOINT 200 MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS CLAIMS.

4. IN ACCEPTING THE DECORATION PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ REFERRED TO THE DOCUMENT OF AYACUCHO SIGNED ON DECEMBER 9, 1974, REAFFIRMING UNITY OF THOSE EIGHT COUNTRIES WHICH HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE 1824 BATTLE OF AYACUCHO THAT SEALED THE INDEPENDENCE OF SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS. HE WENT ON TO WARN AGAINST MODERN COLONIALIST TENDENCIES SAYING "IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORM OF OBFUSCATION UNLEASHED BY ECONOMIC COLONIALISM BENT ON MAINTAINING ITS CONTINUATION OF WORLD HEGEMONY," THE GREAT POWERS ARE UNDERESTIMATING THE SPIRITUAL STRENGTH OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. HE REFERRED AS WELL TO THE "THOUSAND TRICKS OF COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION IN THE HANDS OF THE POWERFUL AND HIGHLY DEVELOPED."

5. UNLIKE AMBASSADOR MORELLI, PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ FELT COMPELLED TO REFER TO THE AMAZON BORDER DISPUTE. HE DID SO CAUTIOUSLY AND WITHOUT POLEMICS AND SPOKE IN TERMS OF THE "UNIFYING CLIMATE OF THE END OF THIS CENTURY" WHICH REQUIRES THE COLLABORATION OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT HE ENVISIONED BOTH ECUADOREANS AND PERUVIANS WORKING TOGETHER, POPULATING AND DEVELOPING THE TOWNS AND THE CITIES OF THE AMAZON REGION.

6. COMMENT: IN AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH SOLIDARITY WITH PERU THE PRESENT GOE HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID THE OLD DEMAGOGIC AND UNREALISTIC REVANCHIST CLAIMS FOR THE IMMENSE TERRITORIES LOST TO PERU IN 1941. RODRIGUEZ COULD NOT ENTIRELY AVOID THE SUBJECT BECAUSE OF STRONG AND CONTINUING DOMESTIC CONCERN BUT HIS REMARKS WERE ABOUT AS LOW KEYED AS HE COULD GET AWAY WITH.

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